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THE ROMAN ARMY AND CHARIOT EXPERIENCE FACT SHEET

August 2005

The Roman Army and Chariot Experience (RACE) stages daily performances of a company of fully equipped Roman legionaries, gladiators and authentic Roman racing chariots in the hippodrome in Jerash.

“Jerash is the only place in the world where such performances can be seen in an authentic Roman setting”.

The Performance:

Legionaries in full armour march through the Jerash site heralding the upcoming performance with trumpets in anticipation of the exciting events to follow. Tourists to Jordan then witness a unique performance in an authentic setting at the Jerash hippodrome. A speaker welcomes the audience and throughout the performance, in several languages, elucidate what is being shown. To add to the enthusiasm, martial music on a massive sound system accompanies the performance.

Forty-five legionaries battle and display Roman Army drill and war tactics using all their weapons. Swords, shields, daggers, javelins, bows and arrows, slings and a “scorpion” shooting iron bolts along the length of the hippodrome are used. Five pairs of gladiators “fight to the death” close to the spectator seats.

Following the Roman Army performance, a triumphal chariot with four horses abreast parades in front of the audience. This is followed by the introduction of four two-horse racing chariots, first parading and then competing in a seven-lap race, full of dramatic events, beginning at the south end starting gates.

The winner receives his laurel from the tribune after which the show ends with a parade of all the participants.

The total length of the performance will be just over one hour and starts at 11:00 am daily (except Saturdays) when most tourists have walked through the Jerash site.

The Project:

RACE was formed on the initiative of Mr. Stellan Lind, a Swedish citizen resident in Jordan. The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities and the Jordan Tourism Board have been enthusiastic supporters of the project from its inception. An agreement with MoTA regulates the use of the hippodrome and its adjacent areas.

The Company:

The Jerash Heritage Company is a privately held Jordanian company owned by sixteen private investors and the Jordan Hotel Association.

Regular performances will start September 15, 2005. A Grand Opening attended by his Majesty King Abdullah II is planned for late September.

For more information please contact:

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